

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0005
(916) 319-2005
FAX (916) 319-2105

E-MAIL
assemblymember.cox@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly
California Legislature



DAVE COX
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER
FIFTH DISTRICT

ORIGINAL

DISTRICT OFFICE
4811 CHIPPENDALE DRIVE
SUITE 501
SACRAMENTO, CA 95841
(916) 349-1995
FAX (916) 349-1999

WEBSITE
<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/cox>

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 7, 2002

Commission Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW, CY-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC Docket No. 02-306

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Commissioners:

As the California State Assembly Republican leader, I have been following the telecommunications industry, including competition issues and SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application.

Approval by the California Public Utilities Commission on September 19 of SBC's long distance request was a good first step. I would now encourage the Federal Communications Commission to move forward with a favorable vote as soon as possible.

FCC approval of this application is the right step for California consumers and the economy in this state. More than 140 million Americans in 23 states are experiencing the increased benefits of telecommunications competition – California should not be left behind.

SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the California long distance will have a positive impact on the state. According to FCC information, nearly half the zip codes in California have four or more competitors offering services. This kind of competition is healthy for business and beneficial to consumers.

The FCC should move quickly to approve SBC Pacific Bell's pending 271 application from California.

Sincerely,

DAVE COX
Assembly Republican Leader

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